practically possible. However their impact can be mitigated by way of suitable structural and non-structural measures. The recommendations of such Expert Committees have been circulated to concerned Ministries/States for their implementation.

Government of India has also set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January, 2008, *inter alia*, provides for preparation of flood management plans at national, State and district levels covering all aspect of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system. These guidelines specify roles of central Ministries and States in disaster mitigation and relief. Ministry of Home Affairs provides relief to the flood affected States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

In addition, for providing additional assistance to flood affected States for flood management and erosion control works in critical reaches, the Government of India has approved a State sector scheme namely "Flood Management Programme" with an estimated cost of Rs.8,000 crore for implementation during Eleventh plan. Under the scheme, no specific share of any State has been allocated. An Empowered Committee headed by Secretary (Expenditure) decides the eligible proposals of flood management works submitted by the State Governments for inclusion under Flood management Programme for central assistance.

(c) Does not arise.

Losses due to floods in Bihar

†459. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year also there has been huge loss to agriculture, houses and other assets due to flood in dozens of villages including Shuriyahi, Ramnagar, Nanpatti, Mujiyashi etc. of Phulparash block in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of these villages Shuriyahi village has been ruined completely where no assistance has been provided including the assistance under the amenity provided by the Centre; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the press note released by Department of Disaster Management, Government of Bihar dated 15.10.2008, Madhubani district has not been included as the flood affected district of the State this year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply at 'a' above.

Assistance of Nepalese Government for taming of rivers

460. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to approach Government of Nepal to find out ways and means for taming the rivers originating from that country and flowing to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which cause floods year after year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and by when a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sharda (Mahakali in Nepal), Saptakosi High Dam Project on river Kosi and Naumure Multipurpose Project on river West Rabti, are under discussion in India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the countries. The 3rd meeting of JCWR has been held recently from 29.9.08 to 1.10.08 at Kathmandu. During the meeting, JCWR decided to set up a Pancheswar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest in accordance with the Mahakali Treaty for the development, execution and operation of the Pancheswar Multipurpose Project. Further, the JCWR decided to extend the tenure of Joint Project Office (JPO) established for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project including sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme up to December, 2009 for expeditious completion of DPR. India side also agreed to undertake pre-feasibility study of Naumure Multipurpose Project.

A three tier mechanism consisting of Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) to be co-chaired by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, the existing Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) at the level of Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Nepal and Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) to coordinate all existing Committees and Sub-committees, has been agreed in the 3rd meeting of JCWR to expedite the implementation of the above said projects in Nepal.

These high dam projects, on implementation, would provide benefits to people of India and Nepal, both, in the form of hydro-power, irrigation and flood moderation.

Big dams *vis-a-vis* floods

461. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how much big dams are responsible for causing floods in the country;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study about the benefits of big dams such as generating electricity and irrigation in one hand and the silting of river beds, change of river course, recurrence of floods, increase in flood prone areas and the loss of national exchequers, loss of lives of human and cattles on the other;

(c) if so, the details of comparative figures thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?